

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
2002 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION**

1. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support appropriations and legislation necessary to promote emergency preparedness and security in Maryland, including possible legislation to establish a State aid program to assist local governments defray the extraordinary costs associated with addressing the threat of terrorism.
- Renovations at Gray Courthouse to support new Juvenile Court and associated juvenile holding facilities (\$500,000).
- District Court Commissioners – Authority to Issue Interim Protection Orders – Passage of Constitutional Amendment/Implementation Statute.

2. EDUCATION

- *Pre-K through Grade 12* - Support increased funding for special education, general transportation, special education transportation, limited English proficiency services, academic intervention, the infants and toddlers program, and a phase-in of full day kindergarten as determined locally. Any restructuring of State aid for education must adequately and fairly address the needs of Montgomery County school children. Oppose any attempts to change State funding for teacher retirement or to change the method for calculating assistance for limited English proficiency students to a formula based inverse to the wealth of a jurisdiction.
- *School Construction* - \$22.2 million.
- *Montgomery College Takoma Park Campus Expansion* - \$5.6 million, including funding for the programmed pedestrian bridge over the Metrorail tracks to promote student safety.

3. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- *Return and Diversion Services* – Ensure that children currently enrolled in the program are not transitioned out of the Return and Divert Program administered by the Office of Children and Youth until alternative and adequate State or federal funds are secured for comparable services for these children. State funds should be increased and programmatic changes made to provide services to other developmentally disabled children with long-term needs that extend longer than the new 2-year Statewide program limitation.
- *Mental Health Services* – Initiate a joint State/County pilot cost containment program targeted at reducing costs associated with children and youth who are high users of the public mental health services based on a capitation method of reimbursement (\$500,000), and seek State funding to support outpatient mental health clinics in Montgomery County (\$1.3 million).
- *Funding for Developmental Disability Services* – Continue efforts with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to structure a rate setting methodology that will secure maximum federal financial participation for services to adults with developmental disabilities by Montgomery County providers. This effort may result in proposed legislation.
- *Child Welfare Services* – Ensure hiring of 22 case workers proposed for FY 03 (\$1.24 million).
- *Silver Spring Senior Source* – \$520,000 in capital program of the Department of Aging for this proposed Senior Center in the Elizabeth House in Silver Spring that will be operated in partnership with the Housing Opportunities Commission and Holy Cross Hospital.
- *Wheaton Multi-Service Youth Facility* - \$1.35 million in capital funding for this facility to be developed by Victory Youth Centers in partnership with the State and County to serve the Montgomery County Conservation Corps, Wheaton-Kensington Youth Counseling Services, a day care center, and a recreation center. It will also serve special needs youth.

4. HOUSING

- Support continued funding of the County moderately priced dwelling unit (MPDU) program through the State Rental Housing Partnership Program (\$5 million).
- Support creation of a statutory joint legislative committee focused on housing issues.

5. TRANSPORTATION (Consolidated Transportation Program)

- ***Move to Construction Program:***
 - MD 355 at Montrose/Randolph/CSX – needs right-of-way and construction funding.
 - US 29 at Fairland/Musgrove Interchange – needs remainder of right-of-way funding and all construction funding.
- ***Changes to Development and Evaluation Program:***
 - I-270 at Watkins Mill Road Extended Interchange – needs engineering funding starting in FY 03.
 - MD 97 Relocation at Brookeville – needs engineering funding starting in FY 03.
 - Advance Veirs Mill Road Bus Rapid Transit and Georgia Avenue Busway projects.
 - Initiate Preliminary Planning Studies for alternatives in the corridor between Shady Grove and Georgia Avenue, and commercial revitalization projects in Montgomery Hills (MD 97) and Gaithersburg (MD355).
- Support Continued Implementation of the Governor's Transit Initiative, including additional new Metro rail cars and Ride-On support, and the Neighborhood Conservation Program.